

REMARKS

Applicants request reconsideration of the prior art rejections set forth by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. §§102 and 103. Applicants respectfully submit the prior art references of record, whether considered alone, or in combination, fail to either teach or suggest Applicants presently claimed invention. More specifically, Applicants note that the invention as now specified in Claim 1 specifically states that the signal transmitted to the plurality of vehicles includes information concerning the location and/or direction of the emergency vehicle based on actual location information. The prior art references of record provide no teaching or suggestion whatsoever regarding this advance in the art.

Furthermore, Claim 3 specifies that the alarm signal is comprised of a recorded message which indicates a location and/or direction of the emergency vehicle. The references of record fail to provide this teaching in the art which advantageously ensures that a driver is aware not only of the mere presence of the emergency vehicle but also of the actual direction of travel of the emergency vehicle so that the driver may be instantaneously informed as to whether or not a potential conflict exists. Additionally, Applicants have modified Claim 6 to further specify that there is a step of selectively generating the alarm depending upon a direction of the emergency vehicle. This subject matter is directed the embodiment of the invention wherein based on the actual current location and direction information for the vehicle receiving the alarm signal, the system is able to determine whether the alarm should be signaled to the driver based on the known location and direction

of the emergency vehicle when considering the current location and direction of the operator. Yet another additional distinction is set forth in Claim 18 which describes the embodiment of the system wherein a base system receives the signal indicating the presence of the emergency vehicle and the system automatically controls stop lights to decrease traffic interference based on this information.

Applicants respectfully submit that the references of record provide no teaching or suggestion regarding these distinct innovative and important features of the present invention. Advantageously, Applicants have described a system which significantly improves the safety of drivers and emergency vehicle operators by substantially reducing the risks of collision.

Additionally, Applicants have described systems and methods which are particularly advantageous in that they are easy to implement.

In light of the foregoing, Applicants request that the Examiner now allow all claims in the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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(Reg. #37607)

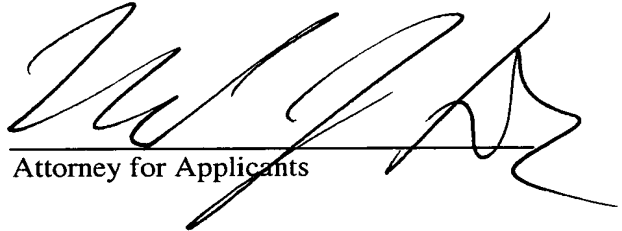
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